Doordarshan-VI

Gujarati, Kashmiri, Marathi and Punjabi.

Non-Coverage of Symbolic Ashwamegh Yagna by AIR, Nagpur

136. SHRI V. RAJESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have noted that the All India Radio, Nagpur has purposely ignored and failed to cover and broadcast a programme where 7.5 lakhs of people took oath not to take or give dowry, not to see obscene pictures of women and to hold women in highest esteem at the Symbolic Ashwamegh Yagna held in Nagpur between 5th and 9th January, 1994;

(b) what was the reason for the AIR, Nagpur not to cover this while the entire print media in Nagpur, Maharashtra and the country was giving wide publicity to the said reformist items;

(c) whether Government conduct an enquiry into this act of omission; and

(d) what action is contemplated against those who are responsible for this lapse including the Station Director?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) and (b) The Yagya was covered by All India Radio, Nagpur in its evening news bulletin on 4th January, 1994 and its district news letter on 13th January, 1994.

(c) to (d) Do not arise.

Non-Coverage of Mass Marriages by Doordarshan Kendra Nagpur

137. SHRI V. RAJESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Doordarshan Nagpur has failed to cover the 63 Mass Marriages performed without dowry at the symbolic Ashwamegh Yagna held in Nagpur between 5th and 9th January, 1994;

(b) whether such omission to cover the said mass marriages which had 22 intercasts couples was purposeful;

(c) whether Government propose to institute a high level enquiry into the conduct of the concerned senior official, Station Director of Doordarshan, Nagpur for this act of omission; and

(d) what action is contemplated against the errant officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Hydel Power Potential of the Himalayas

138. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Himalayas are a huge source of unexploited hydel power;

(b) if so, the Government's estimate of this source;

(c) how much of this source has been exploited so far and the reasons for non-exploitation, if any, thereof; and

(d) the future plans in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Based on the reassessment studies of hydro power potential of river basins in the country carried out by Central Electricity Authority during the period 1978—87, the hydro-electric potential of the Indus, Ganga and Brahmaputra has been assessed at 59160 MW (at 60% LF). Of the above hydro potential, a total of 8.07% has already been developed and another 4.67% is presently under development. Schemes with installed capacity of 2417 MW equivalent of 4.09% of the assessed potential have been

cleared by CEA and but for funds constraints and environmental concerns, further exploitation of the potential is possible.

Payment Guaranteed Scheme Electricity Supply to State Electricity Boards

139. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA:
DR. BAPU KALDATE:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce a payment guaranteed scheme for electricity provided to State Electricity Board by independent generating companies in specific projects; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Govt. have formulated a scheme of extending counterguarantee to back-up state govt's guarantee for SEB's payment obligations for the power purchased from the private generating company on the specific request of the state govt. concerned.

(b) The main conditions are:

(i) the state govt. has guaranteed the payment obligations of the SEB to the private generating company and has specifically requested GOI for extending a counter guarantee.

(ii) Further SEB has to open letter of credit/escrow account to which its revenues will be credited to maintain a balance equivalent to one month's billing of the private generating company.

(iii) SEB has to sign an Operational & Financial Action Plan (OFAP) with Power Finance Corporation (PFC).

(iv) The state govt. has to agree that any amount that GOI may have to pay on account of the counter guarantee will be debited by GOI to its account maintained with the RBI.

Electrification of Villages

140. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state the number of villages electrified in each state with the assistance of the Rural Electrification Corporation by the end of the Seventh Five Year Plan, Year-wise and the expenditure incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): The year-wise details of villages electrified in each State with the assistance of Rural Electrification Corporation by the end of the Seventh Five Year Plan are given in Annexure I. [*See* Appendix 170, annexure no. 3]

State wise and yearwise details of loan assistance disbursed by the Corporation for rural electrification programme, including village electrification, are given in Annexure II. [*See* Appendix 170, annexure no. 4]

Closure of Bermo Coal Mines of Damodar Valley Corporation

141. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bermo Coal Mines owned by Damodar Valley Corporation are lying closed, if so, since when;

(b) whether the Union Government propose to open the mines;

(c) if so, the details thereof, indicating the time by which they are likely to be opened and the estimated amount to be spent;

(d) if the answer to part (b) above be in the negative, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether Government have received any memorandum in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) to (c) The Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) never implemented its decision to close